



African Descent Citizens Reparations Commission Annual Report

**January 1, 2023 –
December 31, 2023**

This report describes the actions of the African Descent Citizens Reparations Commission (ADCRC) in 2023.

In compliance with 20 ILCS 405/405-540, the Illinois Department of Central Management Services submits the following annual report on behalf the ADCRC to General Assembly and Governor.

Raven A. DeVaughn
Acting Director

As codified by 20 ILCS 405/405-540, the African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission was formed effective January 1, 2022.

By Statute, the Commission (1) develops and implements measures to ensure equity, equality, and parity for African American descendants of slavery; (2) holds hearings to discuss the implementation of measures to ensure equity, equality, and parity for African American descendants of slavery; (3) educates the public on reparations for African American descendants of slavery; (4) reports to the General Assembly information and findings regarding the work of the Commission under Section 405-540 and the feasibility of reparations for Illinois African American descendants of slavery, including any recommendations on the subject; and (5) discusses and performs actions regarding the preservation of African American neighborhoods, building a Vocational Training Center, ensuring proportional economic representation in all State contracts, and creating an Illinois Slavery Era Disclosure Bill.

The African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission will educate the public about the subject of reparations through a series of public hearings and other engagement methods. To this end, in February 2023, the Commission unveiled its website, adcrc.illinois.gov, as the official repository of information about its goals and work. The site includes an overview of the ADCRC mission and governing statutes, the makeup of Commission membership, educational resources referencing reparations work that is being spearheaded in other parts of the United States, and information about past and future meetings. From February 2023 to December 2023, the ADCRC website received over 3,000 visits.

In compliance with the 20 ILCS 405/405-540, Central Management Services reports that the below members have been appointed to the African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission:

Members	
Marvin Slaughter, Jr.	Chair
Stephanie Taylor	Vice Chair
Roger Elion	Secretary
Senator Christopher Belt	State Senator
Rep. Sonya Harper	State Representative
Jaquie Algee	Member
Deborah Lane	Member
Carlton Theophilus Mayers II	Member
Twyla Moore	Member
Joel Sachnoff	Member
Theodore Williams	Member

In 2022, the Commissioners voted to elect Marvin Slaughter, Jr. as Chair of the Commission. In 2023, the Commissioners voted to elect Stephanie Taylor as Vice Chair of the Commission and Roger Elion as Secretary of the Commission. The Commission established two Subcommittees in 2023. The Commission established a Public Engagement and Education Subcommittee electing Roger Elion as Chair and Stephanie Taylor as the Secretary of the Public Engagement and Education Subcommittee. The Commission also established a Research Subcommittee and elected Marvin Slaughter, Jr. as its Chair.

The Research Subcommittee developed the Scope of Work for "Reparations in Illinois: Exploring the Feasibility and Impact of Redress for Historical Injustices in the State." The proposed scope of work and budget for the Inter-Governmental Agreement with the Institute for Research on Race & Public Policy and the Institute of Government and Public Affairs on behalf of the University of Illinois (UIC) was approved by the full commission in December 2023. UIC is anticipated to commence this research in the Spring of 2024. This is the first phase of a three-phase project, with the primary goal of researching and documenting past and current inequities faced by Black Americans in Illinois, including the history and extent of harm done to Black people in the state of Illinois. The research aims to inform the development of public policies that can ameliorate these disparities.

In July of 2023, MaCassa Johnson was appointed by the Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS) to fill the role of the African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission Coordinator, providing full-time administrative support to the Commission.

In ongoing efforts to increase the visibility of the Commission and engagement with the public, the Commission participated as a special guest at two community events. On October 14, 2023, the Commission participated as a special guest at "A Conversation with New York Times Columnist and 1619 Project author Nikole Hannah-Jones" hosted by the Kennedy-King College Social Sciences in Chicago, Illinois. On November 18, 2023, the Commission participated as a special guest at a Southern Illinois Equity Forum: "Shaping Our Future Together" hosted by East St. Louis School District 189, the Illinois Juneteenth Committee, Indivisible Illinois Executive Board, and Indivisible Metro East in East St. Louis, Illinois.

The commissioners launched an awareness campaign for Juneteenth and participated in various events across the state throughout June. These events provided the commissioners with an opportunity to interact with the public and inform them about the important work assigned to the committee. The month ended with the commission's secretary, Roger Elion, traveling independently to California to represent Illinois by speaking at the final public hearing of the California Reparations Taskforce at their state capital on June 29, 2023.

In August 2023, Chair Marvin Slaughter attended an event called "The Convening at Point Comfort" held in Fort Monroe, Virginia. Travel was courtesy of inviting host, 400 Years of African American History Commission. The event focused on racial reconciliation, with a particular emphasis on reparations.

In further efforts to facilitate engagement with the public, the Commission created a [Petition of Support \(illinois.gov\)](#) on its website where community groups, organizations, and individual members of the public can sign to indicate their support of the mission and goals of the Commission. Currently, 245 Petitions of Support have been submitted. Additionally, 36 individuals have subscribed to receive communication and updates from the Commission through its website.

The Commission met, and will continue to meet monthly to develop, and finalize recommendations to the Governor and the Illinois General Assembly to implement reparations to African-Descent citizens in the State of Illinois.